

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 DOTE-00 ACDA-19

CIEP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 NIC-01 /106 W

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R 091723Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7257

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR, XD

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET BACKING OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND TRANSIT
AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 195628

1. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO WROTE THE REPORT CITED REFTEL
TOLD US IT WAS SPECULATIVE AND THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NO
RELIABLE INDICATION THAT THE SOVIETS PLAN TO PUSH FOR A AGREEMENT
ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND TRANSIT COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA.

2. THE ITALIANREPORT WAS PROBABLY PROMPTED BY AN ARTICLE BY G.K.
REDDY IN THE SEPTEMBER 8 HINDU. REDDY SAID THE SOVIETS MIGHT REVIVE
THEIR 1969 IDEA (THE SO-CALLED KOSYGIN PROPOSAL) FOR REGIONAL
COOPERATION WITH SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AND USE OF SOVIET-
BUILT AFGHAN ROADS AS AN OVERLAND ROUTE FROM EASTERN EUROPE.
RECALLING THAT PAKISTANI OPPOSITION STYMIED THIS PROPOSAL
BEFORE IT GOT OFF THE GROUND IN 1969, REDDY THOUGHT THE SOVIETS
WERE LIKELY TO DISCUSS THE IDEA WITH AZIZ AHMED WHEN HE VISITS
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MOSCOW.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE REDDY PIECE, THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EASTERN EUROPE SAID THE INDIANS
HAD VAGUE HINTS OF RENEWED SOVIET INTEREST. THE INDIANS HAD
NOTHING AGAINST THE PROPOSAL, DIDN'T SEE MUCH SOLID BENEFIT IN
IT FOR INDIA, AND THOUGHT PAKISTAN WOULD BLOCK IT IF IT WERE
REVIVED. (SEE OUR SEPTEMBER 14 MEMCON ON INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS.)
QUESTIONED BY A BRITISH COLLEAGUE HERE, A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER
SAID THERE MIGHT BE SOME DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COOPERATION WHEN BREZHNEV VISITS DELHI IN NOVEMBER BUT THIS
WOULD BE A RELATIVELY LOW-PRIORITY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.
MOYNIHAN

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30 JUN 2005

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